

QUESTION: Does your emergency departments use actual or estimate weights when they are calculating the Alteplase dose? What do they have in their emergency department to help make this process quick?

Answers:

- We have just recently moved to total metric system and require actual weights in kilograms only. This is a challenge, we have only 2 carts in the ED which weigh, we have 2 Liko portable lifts which weigh, and we have electronic standing scales. My suggestion to the ED is that they look at putting a scale in the floor where they can wheel the cart on to the scale which is zeroed with the cart on it and actually weigh the patient.
- We only use an actual weight that is obtained from the designated stroke bed (with scale) in the ED. There is also a bed scale to be used as a back up.
- We use actual weights - we have installed a scale in the ED for the EMS to roll all stroke-activate patients to obtain this weight
- We use actual weights--we have a weighing bed
- reported historical weight if it seems accurate, or staff compare weight estimates they are averaged.
- We use actual weights or if not possible would use estimated weight based on what the patient/family tells us. We have only a standup scale to weight patient in triage and do not have bed scales in the ED. I think the idea of getting bed scales in the ED is a good idea.
- We use actual weights, however we are looking into scales in the ED to get actual weights.
- We use estimated weights when delivering Alteplase in the ED.
- We do use actual weights on our patients. We keep a hospital bed in the ED just for weighing our acute stroke patients. When an acute stroke patient goes to CT we have a tech bring the hospital bed into that patient's room. When the patient returns from CT we just move the patient over to the hospital bed and weigh them. The patient then stays on the bed until their disposition. It actually works quite well and didn't cost a penny- always a plus.
- Actual weights. Ed purchased new carts with scales. Stroke alert patients are weighed as soon as they enter the department.
- We used to ask patients .Now we have weight capabilities in most ER beds and a portable scale for those patients on older beds.